REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended is respectfully requested. Claims 1-33 are cancelled. In this Amendment claims 34 – 57 are added. No new matter is added.

Support for the new claims is found in the originally filed provisional, S.N. 60/065,941 filed October 27, 1997 as indicated below, as well as elsewhere in the specification, drawings and claims.

34. A system for controlling the activation of electronic equipment having a power supply, an internal activation member and an input device, said system having:

at least one

Each employee would have a personalized touch key that records the employee name, time of removal, etc. (Pg. 3, line 27 – Pg. 4, line 1)

programmable

Alternatively, the locking code can be reprogrammable either by the user or by a factory representative. The reprogrammable feature enables the code to be changed when required, such as sale of the tool. (Pg 4, line 13-17)

user code;

The disclosed locking device controls the activation of the tool, preventing activation without the entry of user codes. (Pg. 2, line 21)

a user determined programmable activation time period,

The disclosed locking device is also advantageous for rental equipment, such as generators, compressors, VCR's, etc., in that the rented equipment can be programmed for a specific period of time and after that point be automatically deactivated. (Pg. 3, lines 11-13)

a readout display

For example, an LED display 14 can be included which indicates the activation time remaining and, if desired, the current status of the tool. (Pg. 4, line 20 - 21)

monitoring means

The incorporation of a microchip to register the locking codes and program the activation time also provides the added ability to monitor various other tool functions. (Pg 3, lines 18-20)

wherein entry of said at least one access code enables said electronic device to operate for said user determined programmable activation time period.

35. The system of claim 34 wherein said electronic device is deactivated upon termination of said user determined programmable activation time period.

The disclosed locking device is also advantageous for rental equipment, such as generators, compressors, VCR's, etc., in that the rented equipment can be programmed for a specific period of time and after that point be automatically deactivated. (Pg. 3, lines 10 – 12)

36. The system of claim 34 wherein said electronic device is shut off upon termination of said user determined programmable activation time period.

A time period for operation is programmed into the equipment, after which time the unit shuts off. (Pg. 1, lines 17-18)

37. The system of claim 34 wherein said input means is remote from said system.

On larger items, such as construction equipment or generators, a cellular dial in can be included to allow the addition of time to be accomplished remotely from the owner's location. (Pg. 4, lines 6-8)

38. The system of claim 34 wherein said internal activation member is a microchip.

The incorporation of a microchip to register the locking codes and program the activation time also provides the added ability to monitor various other tool functions. (Pg 3, lines 18-20)

39. The system of claim 38 wherein at least one function is monitored by said monitoring means during said user determined programmable activation time period.

The status can include, for example, current battery power (both during recharge and discharge), pressure remaining when air tools are used, rpm and direction of drills, etc. (Pg. 4, lines 21-23

40. The system of claim 34 wherein said system enables control over the amount of time or specific time periods the electronic device can be used.

The use of microchips, or analog, technology permits various functions to be monitored, such as scheduling service based on use time or number of hours a rental item has been used. (Pg 3, lines 2-4, 11-13

41. The system of claim 34 wherein said electronic device is a TV.

The schematic of Figure 15 is an example of the electronics for a device being incorporated into a VCR, television, etc (Pg 6, line 20)

42. The system of claim 34 wherein said electronic device is a computer.

The schematic of Figure 15 is an example of the electronics for a device being incorporated into a VCR, television, etc (Pg 3, line 4)

43. The system of claim 38 wherein said at least one function is monitored based on use time or the number of hours said electronic device as been used.

The use of microchips, or analog, technology permits various functions to be monitored, such as scheduling service based on use time or number of hours a rental item has been used. (Pg. 3, lines 4-6)

44. The system of claim 34 wherein said electronic device is a VCR.

The schematic of Figure 15 is an example of the electronics for a device being incorporated into a VCR, television, etc. (Pg. 3, line 2-3)

45. The operating control system of claim 34 wherein said remote input means

communicates with said internal activation member by wireless means.

It should be noted that the use of analogue, key scanners, infra red, etc. taught herein for use by a specific embodiment, is not limited to that embodiment. . A microphone can be added to the locking device to receive, and register, a code consisting of telephone touch tones to extend the operation time. Various other methods can also be used, and these methods will be evident to those skilled in the art. (Pg 4, lines 5-9)

46. The system of claim 34 wherein said display is a TV screen.

The disclosed device is easily incorporated into a number of electronic devices, such as televisions, cameras, VCRs, stereo equipment, computers and camcorders at the time of manufacture. The schematic of Figure 15 is an example of the electronics for a device being incorporated into a VCR, television, etc A warning light is preferably incorporated to permit the user to save data prior to shut down. (Page 3, lines 1-4)

47. The system of claim 34 wherein said display is a computer screen.

The disclosed device is easily incorporated into a number of electronic devices, such as televisions, cameras, VCRs, stereo equipment, computers and camcorders at the time of manufacture. The schematic of Figure 15 is an example of the electronics for a device being incorporated into a VCR, television, etc. A warning light is preferably incorporated to permit the user to save data prior to shut down. (Page 3, lines 1-4)

48. The system of claim 38 wherein said at least one function is the activation time remaining.

For example, an LED display 14 can be included which indicates the activation time remaining and, if desired, the current status of the tool.

49. A system for controlling the activation of electronic device having a power source, an internal activation member and an input device, said system having:

at least one programmable access code ***(see claim 34)***

a user determined programmable activation time period, ***(see claim 34)*** said electronic device being placed in a deactivation mode upon termination of said user determined programmable activation time period, ***(see claim 35)***

a readout display ***(see claim 34)***

monitoring means, ***(see claim 34)*** said monitoring means monitoring at least one function during said user determined programmable activation time period, ***(see claim 39)***

wherein entry of said at least one access code enables said electronic device to operate for said user determined programmable activation time period.

50. The system of claim 49 wherein said input means is remote from said system. ***(see claim 37)***

51. The system of claim 49 wherein said system enables control over the amount of time or specific time periods the electronic device can be used. ***(see claim 40)***

52. The system of claim 49 wherein said electronic device is a TV. ***(see claim 41)***

53. The system of claim 49 wherein said electronic device is a computer. ***(see claim 42)***

54. The system of claim 49 wherein said at least one function is monitored based on use time or the number of hours said electronic device as been used. ***(see claim 43)***

55. The system of claim 49 wherein said electronic device is a VCR. ***(see claim 44)***

56. The operating control system of claim 49 wherein said remote input means communicates with said internal activation member by wireless means. ***(see claim 45)***

Applicant has, during a search, uncovered U.S. Patent 6,701,523 ("'523") which although it does not claim the features found in claims 34 – 56, these features are taught within the specification. The '523 patent was included in the IDS filed in September 2005 on this case. Applicant believes that his priority date is prior to that of the '523 patent and is submitting claims which reflect his early teachings of this art. Applicant has relied on the provisional filed in October of 1997 for the basis for the currently pending claims.

The priority date for the '523 is September 16, 1998 for a provisional converted the subsequent year. The priority date for applicant's provisional is October 26, 1997 with a subsequent conversion of October 26, 1998.

It is unknown by applicant whether the '523 provisional carried the same disclosure as that of the issued patent and therefore the undersigned has written and noted the basis for, claims based upon applicant's 1997 provisional. Additional information relating to parental controls, televisions and control of electronics was added at the time of conversion.

If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding the present response, the Examiner is invited to contact Sheldon Parker at 703-563-2041.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheldon H. Parker
Reg. No. 20,738

JAGTIANI + GUTTAG
Democracy Square Business Center
10363-A Democracy Lane
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
703-591-2664

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